

# Oscilloscope Applications: Hands-on modules



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## Overview

We'll be seeing and practicing several different applications of oscilloscopes, from the very basic to advanced.

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## Modules

1. Oscilloscopes and cow behavioral response
2. Preliminary Setup
3. Getting signals to the scope
4. Capture, measure, and save a continuous waveform

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## Modules - continued

5. Capture a transient and measure it with cursors
6. Recording with an oscilloscope
7. Time of arrival test
8. Using a computer with a scope
9. Electrical fingerprints

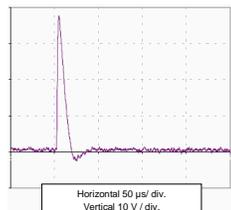
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## Module I:

Oscilloscopes and cow behavioral response

Waveforms:

- a) continuous, 20kHz sine, 5V peak amplitude
- b) Transient
- c) 10 cycle, 60Hz, 1.5V RMS, sine



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## Module I:

Oscilloscopes and cow behavioral response

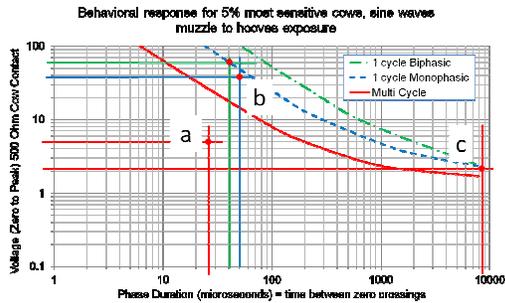
- a) What is the phase duration of a 20kHz sine wave?

$$\text{phase\_duration}(\mu\text{s}) = \frac{1,000,000}{2 * f(\text{Hz})}$$

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## Module 1:

### Oscilloscopes and cow behavioral response



## Module 2:

### Preliminary Setup

1. Clear memory and set to defaults
2. Time (and date if available)
3. Channel A: 1:1 voltage probe with DC coupling
4. Channel B: 100mV/A AC current probe

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## Module 2:

### Preliminary Setup

Questions:

4 – Does the screen show probe attenuation and AC or DC coupling?



6 – Are probe attenuation and coupling settings saved after a reset? Are date and time saved?

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## Module 3:

### Getting Signals to Scopes

- 1) Big, open loop
- 2) Twisted pair
- 3) (better) twisted pair with shield

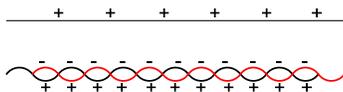
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## Module 3:

### Getting Signals to Scopes

Twisted pair and capacitive coupling

- A nearby “aggressor” circuit is creating an electric field in the area of the twisted pair
- Twists help prevent differential voltage from developing between conductors in the pair

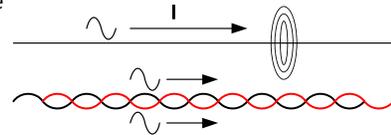


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## Module 3:

### Getting Signals to Scopes

- Twisted pair and inductive coupling
  - A nearby “aggressor” circuit is creating a magnetic field in the area of the twisted pair
  - Twists force induced EMF to be “common mode”

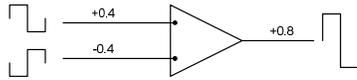


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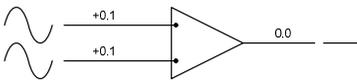
### Module 3: Getting Signals to Scopes

Isolated differential scope inputs

- The differential signal is extracted

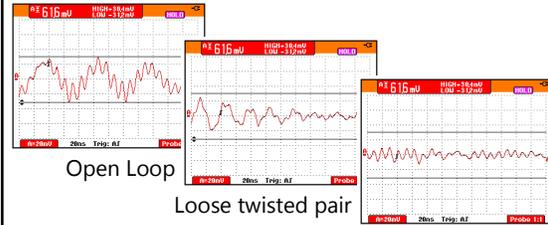


- The common mode noise is cancelled



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### Module 3: Getting Signals to Scopes



Open Loop

Loose twisted pair

Shielded twisted pair

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### Module 4:

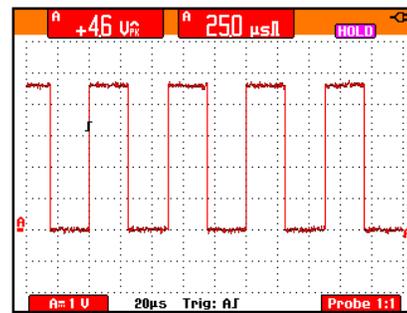
Capture, measure, save a continuous waveform

- 1) Check probes
- 2) Connect low-voltage AC source
- 3) Experiment with trigger settings
- 4) Experiment with time and voltage scale
- 5) Set readings to zero-to-peak voltage and frequency or pulse width
- 6) Save and recall the scope screen

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### Module 4:

Capture, measure, save a continuous waveform



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### Module 5:

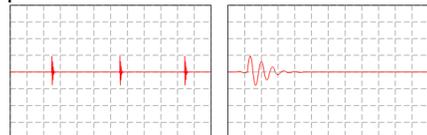
Capture a transient and measure with cursors

- 1) Check probes
- 2) Connect transient source
- 3) Adjust trigger, time, and voltage scales to get clear picture of the transient.
- 4) Measure zero-to-peak voltage with cursors
- 5) Measure phase duration with cursors
- 6) Compare your measurements with others

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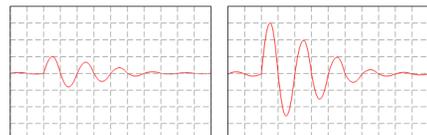
### Module 5:

Capture a transient and measure with cursors



1: initial capture

2: reduce time scale



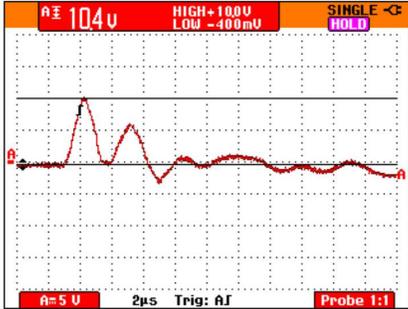
3: reduce time scale

4: reduce voltage scale

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### Module 5:

Capture a transient and measure with cursors



### Module 6:

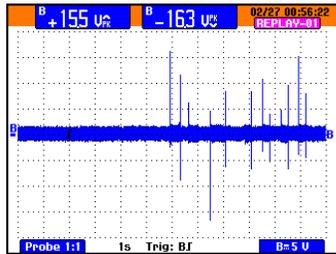
Recording with an Oscilloscope

- 1) Check probes and connect to variable low voltage source
- 2) Use slow time scale to display a "band" rather than waveforms
- 3) Observe any transients
- 4) Try "trend-plot" if available.

### Module 6:

Recording with an Oscilloscope

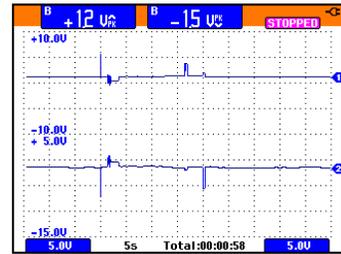
Long time scale



### Module 6:

Recording with an Oscilloscope

Trend-Plot



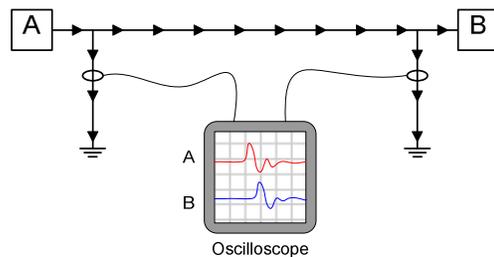
### Module 7:

Time of arrival to find transient sources

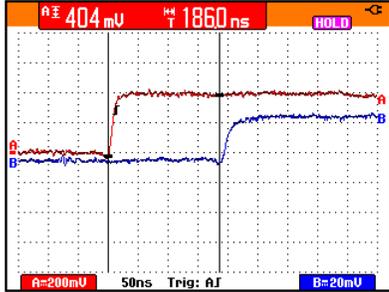
- 1) Connect transient source to two channels of scope using one long and one short cable
- 2) Use short time span and catch leading edge of transient
- 3) Observe time delay for signal to travel through longer cable

### Module 7:

Time of arrival to find transient sources

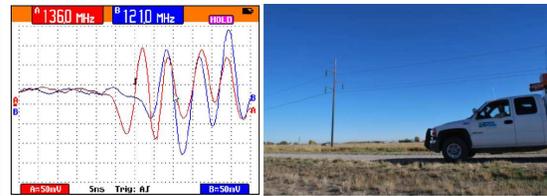


**Module 7:**  
Time of arrival to find transient sources



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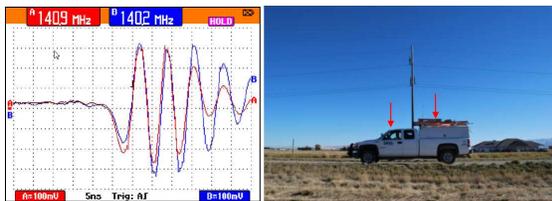
**Module 7:**  
Time of arrival to find transient sources



Approaching a noise source

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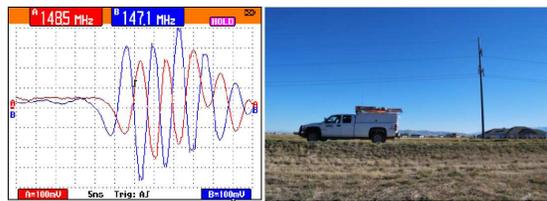
**Module 7:**  
Time of arrival to find transient sources



Both antennas are the same distance from the noise source

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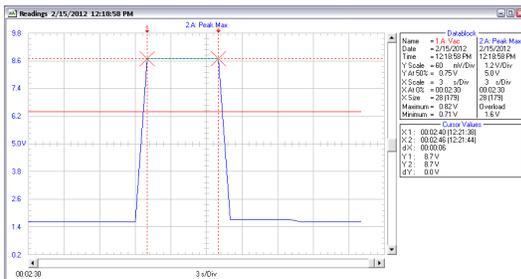
**Module 7:**  
Time of arrival to find transient sources



Passing a noise source

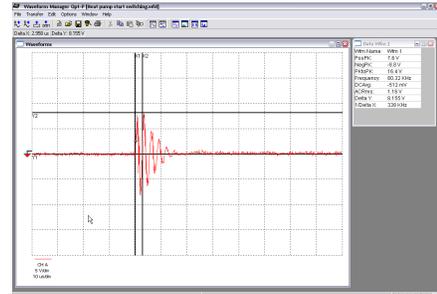
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**Module 8:**  
Using a computer with a scope



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**Module 8:**  
Using a computer with a scope



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## Module 9:

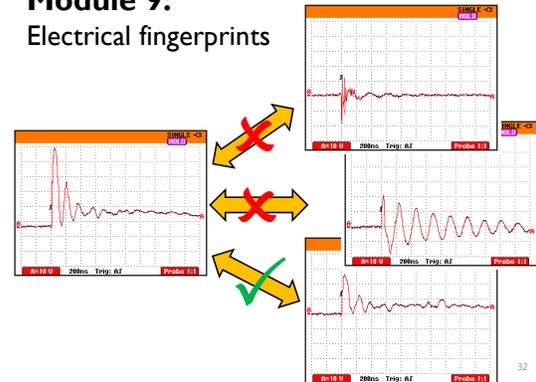
### Electrical fingerprints

- 1) Connect scope to neutral-to-ground voltage at outlet, set to capture intermittent transients
- 2) Switch a load on and off. Capture "characteristic" switching transients
- 3) See if you can identify load from transient

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## Module 9:

### Electrical fingerprints



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Questions?

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